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ON NOTING AT SHILOH THE CONTIGUOUS GRAVES OF SIX UNION FLAGBEARERS

Robert Cowser, Ph.D.

Like a petal from the wild daisy
Fate plucked each in measure,
picking a silent dirge
in unmistakable rhythm.

None of the lads loved Fate,
nor could either love her not,
for no one of the six
had noticed her touch.

As the last grasped the flag,
stained then by bloody soil,
like the Alice she can be,
Fate dawdled--and then moved.

ON HAVING BEEN SHOWN A CRESCENT OF UNION GRAVES AT SHILOH

Robert Cowser, Ph.D.

Six soldiers from Wisconsin perished
within the frame of half an hour
on that violent Sunday in April.

Alternately Fate gave each a turn
to dance with the regimental flag,
just as the belle at the cotillion

reserves a space on the dangling card
for each of the stalwart strangers
appearing unannounced in the ballroom.